

REMARKS

Claim 19 is amended herein. Claims 1-41 are pending and under consideration.

Regarding the drawing objections, claim 19 is amended herein.

The rejections based on Watanabe and Yong are respectfully traversed. Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites the pickups being at a same radial distance from a center of the disk so that the pickups held by corresponding ones of the pickup transferring units are inspected at once according to a same reading operation.

The Examiner admits that Watanabe does not teach these features. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's combination is not proper.

The Examiner purports to modify Watanabe to include same radii. As previously noted, Watanabe specifically teaches that the magnetic heads having the same radius r "cannot be adopted." Specifically, when one head device records and another reads at the same radius, recording/reading cannot be achieved with reliability. Watanabe, col. 2, ln. 19-26. Thus, the reference itself teaches away from using same radii in connection with the invention disclosed therein.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner states that Yong solves this problem. However, Yong is directed to testing of magnetic disks, whereas Watanabe is directed towards testing magnetic heads. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have understood the problems of Watanabe to be overcome by Yong. The distinction between magnetic heads and disks is critical in the context of a same pickup radius. In Watanabe, one head is recording and the other is reading, causing interference between the heads. However, the testing of disks involves reading only, and therefore the problems associated with reading and writing heads are not present. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not interpret Yong as overcoming the deficiencies in Watanabe, or any other problems associated with same radii heads in a scenario with one reading head and one writing head.

The remaining reference does not overcome these deficiencies.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

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Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 

Michael J. Badagliacca
Registration No. 39,099

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501